

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 IO-13 OES-06 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00

/043 W

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R 011450Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8066

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 7812

DEPT FOR ARA/ECA

PANAMA FOR RSS ELLIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: U.N. WATER CONFERENCE, MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA

MARCH 14 - 25, 1977

REF: STATE 278912

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF THE TERRORIST THREAT AS VIEWED BY THE RSO THIS DATE. SINCE THE TURNOVER OF GOVT MARCH 24, 1976, SECURITY FORCES, I.E. MILITARY AND POLICE, HAVE HAD A DEGREE OF SUCCESS IN NEUTRALIZING TERRORIST EFFORTS. HOWEVER, BOTH THE ERP AND MONTONEROS, THOUGH SCARRED BY SECURITY FORCE ELEMENTS, STILL REMAIN A DANGEROUS AND POTENTIAL THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. REPS OF THE GOA PRESIDENTIAL PROTECTIVE DETAIL HAVE ADVISED THE RSO THAT THE MONTONEROS CONTINUE TO RECRUIT DAILY. SOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE RSO'S OFFICE ADVISED ACTUAL STRENGTH OF TERRORISTS AND TOTALS OF AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT CANNOT BE DETERMINED. INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE WHICH INDICATES THAT THE ERP IS AFFECTED BY FOREIGN INFLUENCE. LIMITED INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED INDICATING THE POSSIBILITY OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE WITH RESPECT TO THE MONTONEROS. DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1976,

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SOME 16 ARGENTINE NATIONALS, SENIOR MANAGERS OF US FIRMS,

HAVE BEEN ASSASSINATED WHILE SOME 14 HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED. INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE WHICH INDICATES THAT AT THIS TIME MONTONEROS MAY NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL SINCE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN BEING CONDUCTED WITHIN THE US IS CAUSING EXTENSIVE EMBARRASSMENT, ETC. TO THE INCUMBENT GOA. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO PRACTICE SECURITY MEASURES, INCLUDING PROTECTIVE DETAILS FOR AMBASSADOR AND DCM AND BODYGUARDS SPECIFICALLY ASSIGNED TO SOME EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS. VARIOUS RESIDENCES HAVE STATIC GUARDS WHOSE TOUR OF DUTY RANGE FROM 16-24 HOURS, DEPENDING ON LEVEL OF THREAT. EMBASSY LIVING QUARTERS AND VEHICLES ARE EQUIPPED WITH TWO-WAY RADIOS WHICH ARE SUPPORTED BY MOBILE PATROLS WHO CAN RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. EMBASSY OPERATES A FLEET OF ARMORED AND SEMI-ARMORED VEHICLES. RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE ARE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT TERRORIST THREAT LEVEL WILL REMAIN THE SAME IN MARCH 1977 AS IT IS THIS DATE.

2. GOA PROJECT OFFICER FOR CONFERENCE HAS REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY NOT DIRECTLY CONTACT FEDERAL POLICE OR OTHER SECURITY AGENCIES WITH INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE CONFERENCE. HE INFORMALLY ADVISED THAT PROTECTION OF SITE WILL BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MILITARY AND THAT THE SENIOR SECURITY ADVISOR WILL PROBABLY BE A RETIRED ADMIRAL. IN ADDITION, HE ADVISED IT IS EXPECTED THAT AN AREA WITHIN THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF 500 METERS OF THE CONFERENCE SITE WILL FALL UNDER MILITARY CONTROL AND ALL PERSONNEL ENTERING OR LEAVING THE AREA WILL BE CHECKED. FURTHERMORE, HE RELATED THAT INDIVIDUALS IN THE CONFERENCE AREA WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED TO PASS WITH PROPER IDENTIFICATION.

3. MAR DEL PLATA IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 250 MILES SOUTH OF BUENOS AIRES. THIS DISTANCE CAN BE TRAVERSED BY TRAIN, NON-STOP, IN 4.5 HOURS OR BY AIR IN 40 MINUTES FLYING TIME. TRAVEL BY SURFACE AUTO IS OVER A SINGLE ROAD AND REQUIRES APPROXIMATELY 6-7 HOURS. RSO RECOMMENDS ALL TRAVEL BE FROM BUENOS AIRES AND BY AIR. SUGGEST DATES OF TRAVEL BE FURNISHED ASAP SO THAT EMBASSY TRANSPORTATION OFFICE CAN MAKE APPROPRIATE RESERVATIONS.

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4. DURING THE WEEK NOV. 22, COUNS OF ADMIN AND SENIOR RSO TRAVELED TO MAR DEL PLATA FOR THE PURPOSE OF SURVEYING SITE LOCATION. ONE WING OF THE HERITAGE HOTEL CONSISTING OF 7 FLOORS WITH 7 ROOMS PER FLOOR HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR US DELEGATION. THIS MAY BE EXCESSIVE BUT WE CAN REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ROOMS AS LATE AS JANUARY. AS OF NOW IT APPEARS AREA OF THIS SIZE WILL BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE CONFERENCE ROOMS AND HOUSING FACILI-

TIES FOR ADMIN STAFF, SECURITY OFFICERS AND MSGS. THE ROOMS ARE ALL INTER-CONNECTED ON EACH FLOOR. BY THE TIME CONFERENCE AREAS, OFFICES, COMMUNICATIONS AND SUITES ARE ARRANGED, THE 49 ROOMS WILL BECOME SOMEWHAT LESS IN NUMBER OF FUNCTIONAL AREAS. THIS HOTEL IS LOCATED WITHIN APPROXIMATELY 50 YARDS OF THE CONFERENCE SITE. ADEQUATE SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR THE STORAGE OF AUTOMOBILES IN THE BASEMENT. ACCESS TO THE VARIOUS LEVELS IS BY TWO ELEVATORS AND A STAIRWELL. BY PROPERLY LOCATING SY PERSONNEL, THIS CAN BE CONTROLLED. SECOND LEVEL IS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED FOR DESIGNATION AS THE ADMIN/SECURITY SUITE. IT WILL HOUSE TWO CONFERENCE AREAS, OFFICES FOR THE CONTROL OFFICER AND CONFERENCE SECURITY OFFICER, SLEEPING AREA FOR SOME MSGS AND STORAGE AREA FOR CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS.

4. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TENTATIVE SECURITY PLAN FOR US DEL HOUSING SITE, HERITAGE HOTEL: ONE SECURITY OFFICER ON DUTY 24 HOURS A DAY. REQUEST DEPT MAKE AVAILABLE TWO RSOS TDY TO ASSIST IN 24 HOUR COVERAGE AT CONFERENCE SITE. FOUR TDY MSGS (UNIFORM TO BE CIVILIAN CLOTHES) TO PROVIDE PROTECTION OF AREA IN WHICH CLASSIFIED MATERIAL IS STORED. IN ADDITION, 8 CONTRACT GUARDS WHO WILL PROVIDE TWO 24-HOUR SHIFTS IN THE CORRIDORS OF THE HOTEL AND IN SUPPORT OF MSG AND SY OFFICER ON DUTY. THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL BE SUPPLIED BY THE CONTRACT GUARD SERVICE CURRENTLY USED BY EMBASSY. COST WILL BE FURNISHED DEPT BY SEPTEL. THEY WILL PROVIDE PERSONNEL CONTROL, PACKAGE CONTROL AND WILL MONITOR HOTEL PERSONNEL TO ENSURE NO PROBLEMS WILL OCCUR.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 IO-13 OES-06 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00

/043 W

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R 011750Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8067

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 7812

DEPT FOR ARA/ECA

PANAMA FOR RSS ELLIS

5. PROTECTION HEAD US DEL: HOUSING AREA FOR CONFERENCE LOCATED ADJACENT TO CONFERENCE SITE AS DESCRIBED. HOWEVER, IT IS ASSUMED THAT HEAD US DEL WILL DESIRE TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE 500 METER PROTECTED AREA. IT CAN ALSO BE ASSUMED THAT GOA MILITARY WOULD HAVE EXTREME DIFFICULTY IN CONTROLLING ALL PERSONNEL IN THIS AREA SINCE IT IS ADJACENT TO THE CENTER OF THE CITY. THEREFORE, PROTECTIVE ELEMENT WILL BE NECESSARY IF HEAD US DEL IS GOING TO BE INVOLVED IN MOVEMENTS OTHER THAN THOSE TO AND FROM CONFERENCE SITE. SUGGEST CONTROL OF PROTECTIVE ELEMENT BE BY PPSU MARINES PRESENTLY AT EMBASSY; THAT THE MARINES BE SUPPORTED BY FOUR FEDERAL POLICEMENT, TWO ON DUTY, TWO OFF DUTY, WHO WILL BE SUBSIDIZED. (COST TO BE FURNISHED DEPT IN SEPTCL). IT IS FELT THAT THE BEST INTEREST WILL BE SERVED BY USING THIS METHOD SINCE POST PERSONNEL CURRENTLY HAVE ALL DOCUMENTATION ISSUED BY HOST MILITARY GOVT WHICH PERMITS THE CARRYING OF CONCEALED WEAPONS, ETC. MARINE MSG/PPSU WILL BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF SENIOR SY OFFICERS. IT IS NOT FELT THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DEL WILL NEED PRIVATE PROTECTIVE DETIALS. THESE INDIVIDUALS SHOULD DEPEND ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLINE AND RESTRICTED MOVEMENT IN ORDER TO KEEP THEIR TARGET PROFILE REDUCED. REQUEST DEPT PROVIDE TWO PPSU-TRAINED MSGS TO AUGMENT AMBASSADOR'S PROTECTIVE DETAIL DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE TWO MEMBERS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FOR PROTECTION OF HEAD US DEL.

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6. CLASSIFIED MATERIAL: EMBASSY CAN MAKE AVAILABLE TWO 4-DRAWER SECURITY CONTAINERS FOR STORAGE OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL. ADVISE SOONEST AMOUNT (LINEAR FEET) OF MATERIAL TO BE TRANSPORTED TO CONFERENCE. SUGGEST ALL MATERIAL BE IN PLACE AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO START OF CONFERENCE.

7. IDENTIFICATION OF CONFEREES: WILL DEPT FURNISH APPROPRIATE IDENTIFICATION FOR ALL CONFEREES, INDICATING THEIR ASSIGNMENT TO CONFERENCE? IF SUCH IS THE CASE, REQUEST ADDITIONAL 24 PASSES TO BE USED BY SY FOR LOCAL ADMIN. IF NOT, ADVISE SOONEST. EMBASSY WILL ARRANGE FOR SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION. HOWEVER, PHOTOGRAPHS OF CONFEREES MUST BE FURNISHED AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE.

8. VEHICLES: EMBASSY WILL MAKE AVAILABLE FOR USE OF HEAD US DEL ONE ARMORED STATION WAGON AND FOLLOW CAR. OTHER VEHICLES TO BE USED BY CONFEREES WILL BE RENTED. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE

SURPLUS OF VEHICLES TO PERMIT LARGE FLEET BEING TRANSPORTED TO
CONFERENCE SITE. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS ADEQUATE AND INEXPENSIVE
(TAXIS AVG. 8.5 CENTS/KILOMETER).

9. ANY LARGE GATHERING, PARTICULARLY ONE RECEIVING THE
PUBLICITY OF A UN CONFERENCE, CAN BE ASSUMED TO AUTO-
MATICALLY BECOME A POTENTIAL TARGET OF TERRORIST ELE-
MENTS. ANY DELEGATION ATTENDING THIS CONFERENCE DOES SO
WITH SOME DEGREE OF RISK; HOWEVER, TO DATE, NO INFORMATION
HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THE RSO IN WHICH THE TERRORISTS HAVE
ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT AN OPERATION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL CONFEREES.
SECURITY MEASURES AS DESCRIBED IN THIS MESSAGE ARE THOUGHT
TO BE NECESSARY. THE FILES OF THIS OFFICE CONTAIN INFORMATION
INDICATING THE REASON AN ACTION HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT
AGAINST THE AMB IS BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF THIS PROTECTIVE
DETAIL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, WATER, MEETINGS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS07812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760445-0618
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761280/aaaacrdg.tel
Line Count: 240
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 278912
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.N. WATER CONFERENCE, MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA MARCH 14 - 25, 1977
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, AR, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006